

BUDGET WORKSHOP JANUARY 21, 2015

A Budget Workshop of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bradley Beach was held in the council chamber on the above date.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Engelstad opened the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Sunshine Law

The meeting has been noticed publicly according to the Open Public Meetings Act requirement for "Annual Notice", and posted on the official bulletin board.

Roll Call 6:30 PM

Present: Council: Cotler, Volante, Goldfarb, Galassetti
Mayor Engelstad
Business Administrator/CFO Wilkins
Auditor Kaplan

Absent: Borough Attorney: DuPont
Secretary: Municipal Clerk Mary Ann Solinski

*Councilman Cotler arrived at 6:46pm.

Mayor Engelstad announced that there will be a two hour limit on the Budget Workshop Meetings.

2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Mayor and Council reviewed the preliminary drafts of the 2015 General, Sewer and Beach Utility Budgets with the Chief Financial Officer.

Discussions ensued with department heads concerning the requested figures for operations in all budgets. It was noted that a considerable number of the original lockers are beyond small repairs and as recommended by public works should be replaced: a brief discussion ensued concerning whether funding should be allocated to add additional lockers for rental by the public or be used to replace existing lockers. Council also discussed capital projects such as upgrades to the lifeguard station and accessibility ramps and mobi mats. The CFO noted a significant increase in the debt obligations due to bonding for items associated with Hurricane Sandy. Council requested that the administrative office perform a survey with neighboring communities for a cost analysis regarding badge fees.

The Mayor and Council also reviewed the Sewer Utility Budget with the Chief Financial Officer. The CFO and Auditor advised that the debt services will be reduced significantly as old debt is being paid off.

The Auditor and CFO reported that the general fund is in the process of completing the year end reports but that all funds are in good shape.

Council briefly discussed a recommendation expected by the joint subcommittee recommending the placement of pay stations along Sylvan Lake in order to provide borough funding towards necessary repairs at the lake as officials have discussed proceeding with necessary repairs and/or replacement of the flume with Avon and the replacement of bulk heading on the borough side of the lake.

While reviewing preliminary figures for the Operating Budget, the CFO noted statutory increases such as pension, insurance, utility cost and contractual increases. Council requested a reduction in some of the appropriations such as gasoline as prices are expected to go lower.

Council requested that the staff contact Green Acres to see if it would be permissible to move the greenhouse from the public works site to another park in the borough in order to provide additional space for storage of beach items during the off season.

Mayor Engelstad noted that the new borough engineer and his firm have indicated that they will aggressively pursue grant funding on behalf of the borough.

The council requested a detailed list of existing equipment before consideration of purchasing any new large items.

Public Comments – no one offered comments.

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION by Galassetti / Volante the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Mary Ann Solinski, RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk